



## EU Sustainable Energy Week 2011: extracts from the press briefing by Günther Oettinger

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On the occasion of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2011, Günther Oettinger, Member of the EC in charge of Energy, gave a press briefing on 12/04/2011 in Brussels, to present a European Commission's Communication on smart grids. The Communication set policy directions to drive forward the deployment of future European electricity networks. Bringing together latest progress in Information and Communication technologies and network development would allow electricity current, to flow exactly where and when it was needed at the cheapest cost. Smart grids would give in particular to consumers the ability to follow their actual electricity consumption in real time: smart meters would give consumers strong incentives to save energy and money. During his press briefing, Günther Oettinger commented the latest developments in the Japanese nuclear crisis, after the Japanese authorities raised the Fukushima nuclear accident severity level to highest grade, from five to seven.

[Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.](#)

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:05	Title	00:00:10
10:00:15	Exterior views of the Charlemagne building (2 shots)	00:00:05
10:00:20	General view of the press briefing	00:01:04
10:01:24	SOUNDBITE (in ENGLISH) by Günther Oettinger, Member of the EC in charge of Energy, on smart grids: smart grids are expected to offer great benefits to all the actors of the upgraded electricity system. Great operators can manage the network more efficiently, producers will have more knowledge of the needs, and indeed access of renewable energy to the grid will be further improved. Retailers will be able to improve customers' services with more detailed offer, in terms of prices and better management of the consumption. For consumers, smart electricity grids mean a shift from a passive receiver of electricity into an inter-active participant in the supply chain. Being able to follow their actual electricity consumption in real time through smart meters gives consumers strong incentives to save energy and money.	00:00:05
10:01:30	Cutaway of press	00:01:04

10:02:34

SOUNDBITE (in ENGLISH) by Günther Oettinger on Japan: this development from 5 or 6 to 7 is a decision of the government and of the experts in Japan. We do respect this decision. But indeed, 7 is the highest level, the most dangerous level. So, our stress tests we start in six weeks, with a common European development and stress tests for all 143 nuclear power plants in the European Union, maybe in partnership with other neighbour States, is more important than ever before. We have to prove our nuclear power plants in comparison to what happened in Japan.

00:00:00

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